

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-19, 26-30 and 32-33 are pending in the application. No amendments are made herein, no new matter has been added, and no new material presented that would necessitate an additional search on the part of the Examiner.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Office Action mailed January 23, 2007 withdraws rejection of claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-19, 26-30 and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Echerer et al. (U.S. patent number 5,740,267) in combination with Fenster et al. (U.S. patent number 5,454,371), Stockham et al. (U.S. patent number 6,081,267) and Weng et al. (U.S. patent number 5,588,435).

Applicant further notes with appreciation that rejection of claims 26 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶2 has been withdrawn.

Claims are not obvious

The Office Action on page 10 rejects claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-19, 26-30 and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Echerer et al. (U.S. patent number 5,740,267, issued April 14, 1998) in combination with Fenster et al. (U.S. patent number 5,454,371, issued October 3, 1995), Stockham et al. (U.S. patent number 6,081,267, issued June 27, 2000) and Buxton et al. (U.S. patent number 5,798,752, issued August 25, 1998).

Echerer et al., U.S. patent number 5,740,267, issued April 14, 1998

Echerer et al. shows a method and system for performing analyses on radiographs. See Echerer et al., column 4, lines 3-5. An x-ray is scanned into a computer system to produce a digital image. Ibid, column 4, lines 9-11. The digital image is stored in permanent storage within the system so that it cannot be modified. Ibid, column 4, lines 11-12. A copy of the image is made for display on a monitor; this copy is temporarily stored in random

access memory and is lost when the computer is turned off. Ibid, column 4, lines 13-15. The system can be used to perform manual and/or automatic analysis of the image, including enhancements such as zooming and marking the image with landmarks and lines of interest. Ibid, column 4, lines 16-21. The enhancements are stored separately from the unmodified image; when a user wants to view the enhanced image, the original unenhanced image is processed each time. Ibid, column 4, lines 21-26.

Factual analysis of Echerer et al. shows that this reference fails to teach or suggest displaying, essentially unobstructed, a medical image in a substantial portion of a graphical interface, as is the subject matter of claims 1 and 10.

Further, Echerer et al. fails to teach or suggest any method for providing and processing a censored user interaction with a spatially displayed medical image and producing graphics related data on said medical image, wherein one of the measurement graphics is an angle value quantity which is assigned to a middle point of a continuous triple-point actuating/positioning, as is the subject matter of claim 1. Echerer et al. also fails to teach or suggest any apparatus arranged to provide and process a censored user interaction with a spatially displayed medical image that includes assigning means for assigning an angle value quantity to a middle point of a continuous triple-point actuating/positioning, as is the subject matter of claim 10.

Most important, Echerer et al. is silent as to “displaying...said medical image...without the presence of menus, toolbars and control panels on said graphical interface,” and “enabling the generation of the at least three measurement graphics without requiring a user to define in advance the type of measurement being generated,” as admitted on page 13 of the Office Action mailed September 20, 2006.

In contrast to the claimed subject matter, Echerer et al. shows defining in advance the type of measurement being generated:

By pressing the “Distance” button on the Manual Analysis menu, the CPU is instructed by the user to report the coordinates of the next two consecutive points...” [Echerer et al., column 13, lines 32-34, emphasis added]

When the user is ready to view or print the analysis, a set of prompts appears and asks the user to select from a list the specific analysis that he wishes to see. [Echerer et al., column 17, lines 54-56, emphases added]

These passages clearly show that Echerer requires a user to define in advance the type of measurement being generated, such as distance. Therefore Echerer et al. fails to teach or suggest for a medical image displayed on a graphical interface enabling the generation of the at least three measurement graphics without requiring a user to define in advance the type of measurement being generated, as is the subject matter of claim 1.

For any of these reasons, Echerer et al. alone does not render obvious any of pending claims 1 and 10. Claims 2-3, 5-9, 11-12, 14-19 and 25-33 depend directly or indirectly on claims 1 and 10 and incorporate all of the subject matter of these claims and contain additional subject matter. Therefore these claims also are not obvious in view of Echerer et al.

Applicant shows below that none of the references cited by the Office Action cures these defects of Echerer et al.

Fenster et al., U.S. patent number 5,454,371, issued October 3, 1995

Fenster et al. shows a method and system for converting two-dimensional images of a target volume represented by an array of pixels into a three-dimensional image represented by a volumetric image array. See Fenster et al., column 1, lines 55-60. The array of pixels is transformed into an image array so that each slice of the image array provides sufficient data

to construct an image slice. Ibid., column 1, lines 62-65. A z-slice of each image array is extracted, and the position of each pixel of the z-slice in a volumetric image array is computed. Ibid., column 1, lines 66-67; column 2, line 1. A grey-level or color value for the pixels of the z-slice is mapped into corresponding pixels of the volumetric image array. Ibid., column 1, lines 2-4. These steps are repeated until all z-slices of the image array have been processed to complete the volumetric image array. Ibid., column 1, lines 4-7.

Fenster et al. fails to teach or suggest displaying, essentially unobstructed, a medical image in a substantial portion of a graphical interface, as is the subject matter of claims 1 and 10.

Further, Fenster et al., like Echerer et al., is silent as to enabling the generation of the at least three measurement graphics without requiring a user to define in advance the type of measurement graphic being generated, as admitted on page 14 of the Office Action of September 20, 2006.

Further, Fenster et al. fails to teach or suggest any method for providing and processing a cursored user interaction with a spatially displayed medical image and producing graphics related data on said medical image, wherein one of the measurement graphics is an angle value quantity which is assigned to a middle point of a continuous triple-point actuating/positioning, as is the subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, Fenster et al. fails to cure the defects of Echerer et al.

Fenster et al. also fails to teach or suggest any apparatus arranged to provide and process a cursored user interaction with a spatially displayed medical image that includes assigning means for assigning an angle value quantity to a middle point of a continuous triple-point actuating/positioning, as is the subject matter of claim 10.

As Fenster et al. fails to cure the defects of Echerer et al. with respect to claims 1 and 10, therefore claims 1 and 10 are not obvious in view of Echerer et al. and Fenster et al., alone or in combination.

Claims 2-3, 5-9, 11-12, 14-19 and 25-33 depend directly or indirectly on claims 1 or 10 and incorporate all of the subject matter of these claims and contain additional subject matter. Therefore these claims also are not obvious in view Echerer et al. and Fenster et al., alone or in combination.

Stockham et al., U.S. patent number 6,081,267, issued June 27, 2000

Stockham et al. shows a computerized apparatus for displaying radiological anatomical data that allows a user to stay visually focused on a display monitor where the images are displayed and maximize the display area for images. See Stockham et al., column 3, lines 17-22. Stockham et al. also shows a method for displaying radiological images on a computer screen where a user can activate various functions without accessing additional screen pages or pull down menus. Ibid., column 3, lines 40-44. Stockham et al. further shows a method for manipulating an image display of radiological image data without moving a cursor from the image. Ibid., column 4, lines 9-12 and 23-26.

Stockham et al. fails to teach or suggest displaying, essentially unobstructed, a medical image in a substantial portion of a graphical interface, as is the subject matter of claims 1 and 10. Stockham et al. also fails to teach or suggest, for a medical image displayed on a graphical interface, enabling the generation of the at least three measurement graphics without requiring a user to define in advance the type of measurement being generated, as is the subject matter of claim 1.

Further, Stockham et al. fails to teach or suggest any method for providing and processing a cursored user interaction with a spatially displayed medical image and producing graphics related data on said medical image, wherein one of the measurement graphics is an angle value quantity which is assigned to a middle point of a continuous triple-point actuating/positioning, as is the subject matter of claim 1. Stockham et al. also fails to teach or suggest any apparatus arranged to provide and process a cursored user interaction with a spatially displayed medical image that includes assigning means for assigning an angle value quantity to a middle point of a continuous triple-point actuating/positioning, as is the subject matter of claim 10. Therefore, Stockham et al. fails to cure the defects of Echerer et al. and Fenster et al.

As Stockham et al. fails to cure the defects of Echerer et al. and Fenster et al. with respect to claims 1 and 10, therefore claims 1 and 10 are not obvious in view of Echerer et al., Fenster et al. and Stockham et al., alone or in combination.

Claims 2-3, 5-9, 11-12, 14-19 and 25-33 depend directly or indirectly on claims 1 and 10 and incorporate all of the subject matter of these claims and contain additional subject matter. Therefore these claims also are not obvious in view of Echerer et al., Fenster et al., and Stockham et al., alone or in any combination.

Buxton et al., U.S. patent number 5,798,752, issued August 25, 1998

Buxton et al. shows methods of operating processor-controlled machines such as computers, and user interface techniques for allowing a user to interact with the machine. See Buxton et al., column 1, lines 30-33. The user simultaneously and independently moves the tools with one hand, normally the non-dominant hand (e.g., a right-handed user's left hand) and operates on the visible representation with the other, normally the dominant hand.

In a specific implementation, the input devices include a trackball for positioning the tools and a mouse for positioning a cursor and initiating actions. Ibid., Abstract. The user specifies operations to the program by interacting with the tools and the visible representation and views the results of the operations on a display device.

Buxton et al. fails to teach or suggest displaying, essentially unobstructed, a medical image in a substantial portion of a graphical interface, as is the subject matter of claims 1 and 10. Buxton simply does not even mention medical images, let alone teach displaying medical images in a graphical interface.

Buxton fails to teach or suggest, for a medical image displayed on a graphical interface, enabling the generation of the at least three measurement graphics without requiring a user to define in advance the type of measurement being generated, as is the subject matter of claim 1.

Buxton fails to teach or suggest any method for providing and processing a censored user interaction with a spatially displayed medical image and producing graphics related data on the medical image, in which one of the measurement graphics is an angle value quantity which is assigned to a middle point of a continuous triple-point actuating/positioning, as is the subject matter of claim 1.

Buxton et al. also fails to teach or suggest any apparatus arranged to provide and process a censored user interaction with a spatially displayed medical image that includes assigning means for assigning an angle value quantity to a middle point of a continuous triple-point actuating/positioning, as is the subject matter of claim 10.

Buxton et al. fails to cure the defects of Echerer et al., Fenster et al. and Stockham et al. with respect to claims 1 and 10. Therefore claims 1 and 10 are not obvious in view of

Buxton alone, or in view of Echerer et al., Fenster et al., Stockham et al. and Buxton et al., in any combination.

Claims 2-3, 5-9, 11-12, 14-19, 26-30 and 32-33 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 10 and therefore incorporate all of the subject matter of these claims and contain additional subject matter. As Fenster et al., Stockham et al. and Buxton et al. alone and in combination fail to cure the defects of Echerer et al. with respect to claims 1 and 10, therefore claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-19, 26-30 and 32-33 also are not obvious in view of Echerer et al., Fenster et al., Stockham et al. and Buxton et al. in any combination. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Legal analysis of references combined

Whether an invention would have been obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is a legal conclusion based on underlying findings of fact. *In re Kotzab*, 217 F.3d 1365, 1369 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

The *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* states: "[t]o establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure." [emphases added] *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* §2142 (8th Ed. Rev.2, May 2, 2004); *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).



Failure of the cited prior art to teach or suggest all the claim limitations

To establish a *prima facie* case for obviousness of a claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure*, §2143.03, p. 108 (8th Ed. Rev.2, May 2, 2004); *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974).

Claim 1 and claim 10 include subject matter not found in any of the cited art. First, the method of claim 1 includes displaying, essentially unobstructed, a medical image in a substantial portion of a graphical interface. Second, the medical image in this method is displayed on a graphical interface, enabling the generation of the at least three measurement graphics without requiring a user to define in advance the type of measurement graphic being generated. Third, the method of claim 1 is directed to a method for providing and processing a cursored user interaction with a spatially displayed medical image and producing graphics related data on said medical image, wherein one of the measurement graphics is an angle value quantity which is assigned to a middle point of a continuous triple-point actuating/positioning.

The apparatus of claim 10 includes, first, a menu-less graphical interface arranged to display, essentially unobstructed, a medical image in a substantial portion of a graphical interface. Second, one of the measurement graphics is an angle value quantity which is assigned to a middle point of a continuous triple-point actuating/positioning. Third, the apparatus of claim 10 includes an apparatus arranged to provide and process a cursored user interaction with a spatially displayed medical image that includes assigning means for

assigning an angle value quantity to a middle point of a continuous triple-point actuating/positioning.

None of the four cited primary references show any of this subject matter of claims 1 and 10, based on the factual analysis of each reference above. Therefore, by the legal criteria discussed above, the underlying facts of the content of the cited prior art and of the present pending claims show that the prior art fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of the claims of the present invention. Therefore, a *prima facie* case that claims 1 and 10 of the present invention are obvious has not been made.

Claims 2-3, 5-9, 11-12, 14-19, 26-30, and 32-33 that depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 10 and incorporate the subject matter of claims 1 and 10 and contain additional subject matter, also are not obvious in light of the cited references. For at least these reasons, obviousness of the claims has not been established.

No motivation to combine references

To establish obviousness based on a combination of the elements disclosed in the prior art in the absence of any hindsight, there must be some motivation, suggestion or teaching of the desirability of making the specific combination that was made by the applicant. *Id.* The teaching or suggestion, not merely to make the claimed combination, but also of a reasonable expectation of success, must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488; 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

None of Echerer et al., Stockham et al., and Buxton et al., the more recent of the primary references, cite Fenster et al., the earliest published of the cited reference. Not even one of the references cites any of the others. According to the legal criteria discussed above,

Echerer et al., Stockham et al., and Buxton et al. fail to provide any motivation for making a combination with Fenster et al., let alone making any combination with each other, let alone suggest that such a combination would have been successful in arriving at the claimed subject matter. As there is no citation in Echerer et al., Stockham et al., or Buxton et al. to Fenster et al., there can be no teaching or suggestion even to combine any of these references. For these reasons also, the combination of these references fails to teach or suggest the present claims.

Further, these references neither teach nor suggest how to modify any of the technology of any of the other references in order to combine with the other references to arrive at the subject matter of the claims of the present application.

As none of Fenster et al., Echerer et al., Stockham et al., and Buxton et al. provide any motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to have made the combination of any elements of these primary references to have arrived at the present claims of Applicant's invention, then the Office Action, in making the combination, is using Applicant's own specification as a blueprint to reconstruct the invention, which is impermissible hindsight, viz., extracting merely an element or word from each of the four references, to use the specification and claims to attempt to reconstruct Applicant's claims, when none of the references explicitly would have taught or suggested a combination between or among any of the four references, let alone taught or suggested a reasonable expectation of success in arriving at the claimed subject matter.

The knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art would not have rendered the claims of the present invention obvious

Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where then is some teaching, suggestion, or

motivation to do so, found either in the references themselves, or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. The legal criteria to determine the extent to which such knowledge is in the general art, rather than found in the Applicant's specification, has been extensively addressed by recent court decisions analyzed below.

In *Ruiz v. A.B. Chance Company*, 357 F.3d 1270; 69 U.S.P.Q.2d 1686 (Fed. Cir. 2004), the court found that the two cited prior art references both addressed precisely the same very narrow problem: the use of screw anchors to underpin existing structural foundations. Both references were solving the same problem. The court explained that motivation to combine two references was found in the nature of the problem to be solved because the two cited references in this case addressed precisely the same problem of underpinning existing structural foundations. *Id.* at 1276. The court further stated that because the prior art references address the narrow mechanical problem of underpinning existing building foundations, a person seeking to solve that exact same problem would have consulted both of the references and applied their teachings together. *Id.* Thus, *Ruiz* provides only a very narrow scenario for when the nature of the problem can provide implicit motivation to combine references, requiring the prior art references cited to address precisely the same problem as the current invention.

A second recent case, *National Steel Car, Ltd. v. Canadian Pacific Railway, Ltd.*, 357 F.3d 1319, 69 U.S.P.Q.2d 1641 (Fed. Cir. 2004), also addresses the issue of when motivation to combine references can be considered proper. In *National Steel Car*, the claims at issue were directed to a railcar with a "drop deck". *Id.* at 1322. In *National Steel Car*, the court determined that the motivation to combine the two prior art references is implicit in the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, because both of the two

references independently arrived at the "drop deck" railcar design. See *Id.* at 1337-1340.

Since two different inventors in the field independently arrived at the claimed invention, the court decided that the motivation to combine the two cited prior art references was implicit in the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art. See *Id.*

In the present case, in contrast to the above cases, each of the four references cited by the Office Action was clearly made to solve a respective different problem, different from each other and different from the present claims, and each in fact arrives at a solution that is different from the others and different from the present claims.

Thus, Echerer et al. shows an apparatus for acquiring a radiographic image, enhancing the image and extracting data from the image, and storing the enhancements and data so that relationships of objects in the image or other images can be determined. See Echerer et al., column 1, lines 17-21.

Fenster et al. shows a method and system for converting two-dimensional images of a target volume represented by an array of pixels into a three-dimensional image represented by a volumetric image array. See Fenster et al., column 1, lines 55-60.

Stockham et al. shows a computerized apparatus for displaying radiological anatomical data that allows a user to stay visually focused on a display monitor where the images are displayed and to maximize the display area for images. See Stockham et al., column 3, lines 17-22.

Buxton et al. shows methods of operating processor-controlled machines such as computers, and user interfaces for allowing a user to interact with the machine. See Buxton et al., column 1, lines 30-33.

Addressing different problems indicates that there would have been no motivation to combine the prior art cited.

The facts of each of *Ruiz* and *National Steel Car* are thus readily distinguishable from the facts of the present case. Unlike in *Ruiz*, none of the four references addresses precisely the same problem as each other, and none of these references addresses the same problem to be solved by the present claims.

Unlike in *National Steel Car*, none of the four prior art references individually, or even in combination, teaches or suggests all of the elements of Applicant's claims. In fact, none of the four cited prior art references discloses any of the other references cited by the Office Action. The lack of teachings by others of the elements of Applicant's claims distinguishes the present case from both *Ruiz* and *National Steel Car*, and demonstrates that the motivation to combine the references cited by the Office Action was not implicit in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present application was filed. Therefore, clearly, the narrow holdings of *Ruiz* and *National Steel Car* are inapposite to the present claims.

Most important, the cited references in combination fail to teach or suggest all of the elements of the present claims. From these factual analyses and from analysis of the legal criteria, it is clear that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made, rather the present claims have been used as a blueprint to pick and choose a large number of disparate references to reconstruct the claims, which is impermissible hindsight.

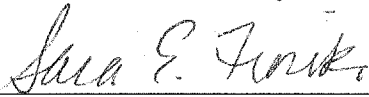
For any of the above reasons, Applicant asserts that claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-19, 25-30 and 31-33 are not obvious, and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Summary

On the basis of the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding these remarks, the Examiners are invited and encouraged to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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Sonia K. Guterman, Reg. No. 44,729  
Sara E. Finiki, Reg. No. 59,206  
Lawson & Weitzen, LLP  
88 Black Falcon Ave., Suite 345  
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2481  
Tel: (617) 439-4990  
Fax: (617) 439-3987